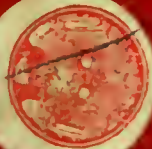


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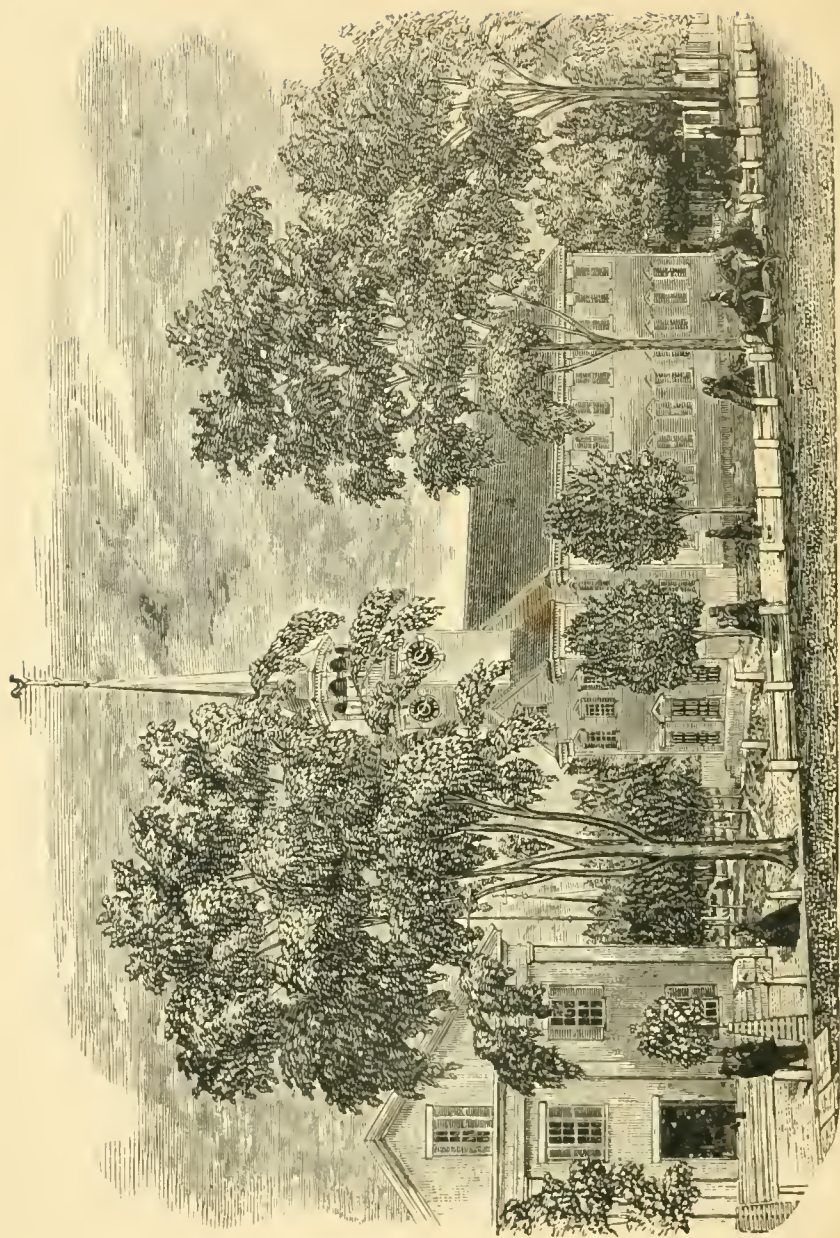












TOWN HALL AND OLD SOUTH CHURCH, 1858.



7

RANDOM RECOLLECTIONS

OF

WORCESTER, MASS.,

1839-1843.

Being remarks made at a meeting of The Worcester Society of Antiquity  
held June 3rd, 1884

BY NATHANIEL PAINE.



Worcester :

ONE HUNDRED COPIES PRINTED FOR PRIVATE DISTRIBUTION.

1885.

PRINTED BY C. A. P. H.

F74  
J12519.7

By transfer

J12519.7

In exchange

Amer. Anti Soc.

25 II 1907



The "Recollections" contained in the following pages are the substance of remarks made before The Worcester Society of Antiquity, a few copies being printed in this form for the convenience of those who may be interested in the subject, and who may not have access to the publications of the Society.

In preparing these remarks, the newspapers of the period were consulted to confirm the recollection of the writer in regard to the location of many of the business men mentioned; and he has also received valuable assistance from gentlemen familiar with the localities spoken of.

The rough diagrams of the Common and streets in the vicinity are not drawn to a scale, nor are the locations of the buildings represented claimed to be precise; all that was intended was to give a general idea of the streets and buildings and their occupants about the years 1839-43. A few other illustrations have been added to this edition which it is hoped may increase its interest and value.

The thanks of the writer are due to Mr. F. P. Rice for the typographical appearance of the pamphlet, which may be deemed one of its chief merits.



## RANDOM RECOLLECTIONS.

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When, several months ago, I promised the President of this Society that I would prepare a paper to present at one of its meetings, I did so with but little idea of a subject, and with still less appreciation of the task I had undertaken.

What I shall ask your attention to, this evening, can hardly be dignified by the title of a paper; it is rather a familiar talk, in which I shall endeavor to give some account of people and buildings in Worcester forty or more years ago, and may, for want of a better title, be called *Random Recollections of Worcester, 1839-1843*.

By the United States Census of 1840, it appears that Worcester was then a town with a population of only 7497, while the Census of 1880 gives us 58,295; and it is now estimated at about 70,000. Financially, the condition of our city to-day, is less gratifying to tax payers than the increase in population, as in 1840, I find the Selectmen report "a larger amount of money paid into the Treasury than would soon be wanted for the uses of the Town," and that they had therefore made a loan of \$2,500 to the Massachusetts Mutual Fire Insurance Company, while to-day, the city is burdened with a debt of \$2,400,000.\*

\*The following extracts from the report of Col. John W. Lincoln, Chairman of the "Committee on Roads," which was presented about the same time as that of the Selectmen, would seem to indicate that some of the serious road troubles now be needed for extraordinary expenses. The report alludes to the "very bad state of the roads" of the past winter, which occasioned "an increase of about 100,000 in the winter road on presented in the history of the town," there had been "heavily paid for" snow plows over \$800, and when all the snow were in, it would not be short of \$1000. Besides this increased expense, to secure a fair and equitable, the town have to incur

Most of my hearers will undoubtedly recall 1840 as a year of great political excitement, occasioned by the presidential campaign of Harrison and Tyler, or, as it was called, "Tippecanoe and Tyler too,"—the days of log cabins and hard cider.

The excitement at Worcester, between the two political parties, was intense ; and on the 17th of June, the anniversary of the Battle of Bunker's Hill, one of the largest and most exciting political conventions ever held in the state took place here. It was called by the Whigs for the purpose of nominating a candidate for governor, and the choice of presidential electors, "Honest John Davis" of Worcester being nominated by acclamation as the candidate for governor.

A log cabin, one hundred feet long, fifty feet wide, and a flag staff, the top of which was about 100 feet from the ground, were erected on Grove street, near the wire works, about the present location of the Washburn & Moen Manufacturing Company's offices, perhaps a little farther south.

Cannon were fired and bells of the churches rung in the morning before the opening of the convention. A procession was formed on the Common and streets in the vicinity, and marching under a handsome arch erected by the Whigs of the town, passed down Main street to the log cabin, the buildings along the line of march being decorated with flags and bunting, and the windows crowded with spectators. Col. John W. Lincoln was the chief marshal, and headed the procession, which is said to have been over a mile in length, and included delegations from all parts of the state. Log cabins drawn by horses, and barrels of cider, were prominent in the procession ; and there were five barouches, each drawn by four horses, for the soldiers of the Revolution. Many of the devices on the banners carried by the various delegations would, perhaps, be of interest to you, but I will mention only a few.

The Worcester County banner had as a device the arms of the County in 1731 : a deer, with the motto "Not Slow." Part of the

the loss sustained by the death of an ox, which has rendered the exhibit of the financial concerns in relation to roads more unfavorable than it would have been but for this misfortune."

Barre delegation were on horseback, and were dressed in black coats and white pants, with a log cabin button on their hats as a cockade. Their band was in a stage coach, with a barrel of hard cider on the rack behind, marked "Oll Korrekt." The Sterling and Southbridge delegations had three log cabins, each drawn by six or eight horses.

The Sutton delegation had a banner with the inscription: "Its all over. There comes old Sutton as long as Eternity!" and over it was painted a long team of oxen ploughing. The origin of this motto it is said, was, that when the Sutton Whigs marched to Worcester in the time of the Revolution, Judge Chandler, who was a Tory, saw them approaching, and made use of the expression given on the banner: "It is of no use. Its all over. There comes old Sutton as long as Eternity!"

Southborough had in the line a log cabin 42 feet long and 10 wide, full of delegates and drawn by 16 horses, which must have made a very vivid impression on my youthful mind, for I well remember it. The Boylston delegation had on their banner the motto: "Van Tip'd out and Tip Tip'd in." The Hopkinton delegation in white frocks trimmed with red, and carrying shovels, axes and brooms, with a log cabin on wheels drawn by ten horses, had marched from that town to Worcester after seven o'clock in the morning, indicating a degree of political enthusiasm not often seen in these days. Spirited addresses were made at the log cabin, and in the afternoon in front of the Worcester House, by distinguished politicians.

One other circumstance of some historical interest, was brought about by the political excitement of the year, that of the formation of the "Worcester Guards." The immediate cause of the starting of this company is stated substantially as follows, in a paper read before the Worcester Fire Society in 1877, by the late Daniel Waldo Lincoln.

Each of the political parties (the Whigs and the Locofocos) were desirous of having a grand demonstration in Worcester on the 3d of July, and each was anxious to secure the services of the Light Infantry, (then the only military company in town) to act

as escort for their procession. Some of the most active among the Whigs authorized Col. John W. Lincoln to extend an invitation to the Infantry to act as their escort, in anticipation of more formal action to be taken by the committee of arrangements. Their opponents, however, held a meeting, appointed a committee, and sent a formal written invitation, which was received by the company soon after the verbal one of the Whigs.

The members of the Infantry being nearly equally divided between the two political parties, a very excited and animated discussion took place as to which invitation should be accepted. The Democrats having a slight majority, it was voted to accept the invitation of that party, on the ground that although the invitation of the Whigs was the first received, the other was more formal and was sanctioned by properly authorized representatives of the party. The result was, that the Whigs in the company were so incensed that they said they would not parade either on the 4th of July or thereafter, but would get discharged as soon as they could. Mr. Lincoln, who was the captain of the Light Infantry at that time, says he decided it was for the best interest of the command, and likely to prevent its total disbandment, if the dissatisfied members were allowed to withdraw. Through his influence, the Whig members, (all save Capt. Lincoln himself,) received a discharge through the authorized military officials. The Democrats at once took an active interest in the company, urged the prompt filling up of the depleted ranks, and with such success that in a week's time the quota was full, all good Jackson Democrats save the captain.

This action of the Democrats naturally stirred up the Whigs, and they determined that a military company, composed of members of their party, should at once be organized; and such was the enthusiasm with which they entered into it, that August 6th, 1840, the organization of the Worcester Guards was completed by the election of George Bowen as captain, and George Hobbs, Leonard Poole and George W. Richardson as lieutenants. Hiram Gould, proprietor of the Worcester House, was orderly sergeant, and promulgated the order for the first parade. This took place Sept. 19, and in the evening a supper was served at the Worcester House



to the new company, upon invitation of prominent Whig citizens. A singular fact in regard to the first appearance in public of the Guards is, that although the *Massachusetts Spy* was the organ of the Whigs, no mention whatever, that I have been able to find, was made in its columns of this parade. The *Palladium*, then the Democratic paper, calls attention to it, and says: "The military bearing of the company was creditable to both officers and men."

After all the excitement and talk about the celebrations for the 4th of July, that of both parties was finally held in Barre instead of Worcester, the Whigs having as their orator Daniel Webster, with a Fitzwilliam company as escort; and the Democrats having George Bancroft as orator, with the Light Infantry as escort. Capt. Lincoln said, that after attending to his military duties, he left his command at the Democratic meeting and went himself to that of the Whigs.

In recalling the location of buildings and their occupants, while depending largely on my own recollection, I have been aided by hints and suggestions from several of our older citizens, given in response to inquiries made of them. It is, perhaps, proper to state, that in many cases where I applied for information as to the location of prominent business concerns of forty or more years ago, to gentlemen engaged in trade here at that time, I have found a marked difference in their recollection of localities and of individuals; in these cases the printed authority of the newspaper advertisements has been accepted as the most reliable. The files of the *Spy*, from 1838 to 1843, have been consulted, and many suggestions and clues to the location of business men have been obtained therefrom, as also from the second Worcester Directory, published in 1843 by A. W. Congdon of Boston.

Not claiming absolute accuracy, and wishing to be corrected in my errors, I will consider, in the brief time allotted, some incidents of our local history, and more especially the location of stores and dwelling houses, with the names of their occupants. It will be necessary in these recollections, to confine myself to very restricted limits, and I shall therefore refer only to localities which in my younger days were most familiar to me.

Forty-four years ago, there stood a few feet to the south of the building we are now in,\* the first depot of the Boston & Worcester railroad. It was a long wooden building, very plain externally, and almost equally so in the interior, with an entrance for passengers at the west end, the trains leaving from the east end. My recollection is, that at first, there was no ticket office, but that the fare was collected on the train. As late, however, as 1839-40, a ticket office was probably established in the building. What we remember as the Foster street depot was completed in the spring of 1840, the old one being then removed to the south side of the new building, to be used by the Norwich and Worcester railroad.

As giving statistical information in regard to Worcester which may be of some historical value, I have made extracts from a circular issued in June, 1831, under the direction of a committee of subscribers to the stock of the Boston and Worcester Railroad, and also from a subscription paper, dated in July of the same year, showing the necessity for the road, and the probable value of the stock as an investment.† In the circular, an assessment of one dollar per share was announced as to be levied on the subscribers, the money to be used by the directors in making "estimates and getting surveys," and otherwise obtaining such information in regard to the construction and probable income of the road, as may be deemed necessary to enable the stockholders to decide on the expediency of the undertaking.

July 4, 1831, a committee of the subscribers, of which Nathan Hale was chairman, issued a circular to show the advantages to be derived from building the road, and the inducements to monied men to subscribe for the stock. They give estimates of the traveling by stage coaches between Boston and Worcester, and say: "The average amount of traveling in the stages now running between Boston and Worcester, including those which pass through Worcester to New York and Albany, is equal to 22,360 per annum, for which the lowest rate of fare is two dollars." They estimate

\* Worcester Bank Block. Rooms of The Worcester Society of Antiquity.

† Copies of the subscription paper and the circular are in the library of the American Antiquarian Society.



WORCESTER BANK BLOCK,  
FOSTER STREET.

ROOMS OF THE WORCESTER SOCIETY OF ANTIQUITY IN THIS BLOCK.



the travel by stages on other routes not going through Worcester, but which they think could be diverted to a railroad, as equal to 9,360. An estimate is also given of the transportation by wagon between Boston and Worcester, which they say cannot be given with much accuracy, but they believe "the amount of business that would be accommodated by the railroad would require an amount of transportation equal at least to 18,000 tons the whole distance per year which at \$3. per ton would produce \$54,000."

They then call attention to the business done on the Blackstone Canal, and say "the tolls for the last season amounted to \$12,000," and that "it would probably be much larger the present season"; adding to this double the amount for transportation it would produce \$36,000 per year. An estimate is also given of the annual expenses of the road, founded partly on information obtained from Mr. Stephenson, the engineer of the Liverpool and Manchester Road, of the annual expenses for repairs on that road; and they close by giving as an estimate of the net annual income of the proposed road the sum of \$86,800.

The road was formally opened July 6, 1835, the first through train from Boston arriving in Worcester the morning of that day. The passengers, consisting of a large number of prominent citizens of Boston and vicinity, were received at the terminus by several hundred of our own citizens, and under escort of the Worcester Light Infantry, commanded by Capt. Charles H. Geer, made a march through some of the most important streets to the Town Hall, where a collation was served. Speeches of congratulation upon the completion of the great enterprise were made by prominent gentlemen of Boston and Worcester, among whom was the Hon. Edward Everett. While the collation was in progress, the ladies of the town, to the number of about five hundred, were given a ride to Westborough and back in the new cars.

The cars first used on the road were very different from the elegant structures now in use, being very much shorter, and having a general resemblance to the old stage coach, without the springs. The advertisement of the company in the *Spr* of the day, with a cut of a train of cars, (a copy of which is here given) illustrates very well their appearance.



*Boston & Worcester RAIL ROAD.*

THE PASSENGER CARS start from the new depot, South Cove, Boston, at 7, A. M., and 3, P. M., and from Worcester at the same hours.

Price of Tickets to Boston, from December 1st to April 1st, Two Dollars, and at the same rate for intermediate places. All baggage at the risk of the owners.

FREIGHT forwarded on the following terms:

Merchandise generally up to Worcester, \$3.50 per 2000 lbs.,  
" " " " down from " \$3.

The Company will not be responsible for any merchandise or effects, unless the same be receipted for by its agents duly authorized, nor for any loss or damage not occasioned by their negligence.

Goods should be sent to the Master of Transportation, at the Depot, with a bill of lading and receipt prepared, ready for signature.

Nov. 23 [1837.] J. F. CURTIS, Sup't

The entrance to them was upon the side, and the seats, as I recall them, were on each side, very much as at present. The conductor, in collecting the fares, had to walk along a narrow step or platform on the outside, holding on by an iron rod at the top of the car.

By an advertisement in the *Massachusetts Spy* of June, 1838, it appears that trains left for Boston twice a day, (Sundays excepted, when there was but one train,) at 6 o'clock A. M., and four o'clock P. M. The fare to Boston was \$2., "all baggage at the risk of the owner." It then cost \$3.50 per 2000 pounds to bring merchandise from Boston to Worcester, and three dollars only to take it from Worcester down. In 1839 there were three trains each way daily, and the fare was reduced to \$1.50.

The usual way for foot passengers to go to the depot from Main street, was by a passage way between the building at the corner of Foster street and that occupied by Levi Clapp as a hat store, about where the cigar store of O. P. Shattuck now is. In the crotch of an elm tree, west of the depot and near the Clapp store, was suspended a bell, to be rung before the departure of trains. This practice of calling attention to the time trains were to start by ringing a bell was kept up for many years after the second depot was erected.

In 1837-8 the name of J. F. Curtis appears as the superintendent, but in 1839 Nathan Hale, for many years president of the road, is signed to advertisements as superintendent pro tem. In 1840 William Parker became superintendent, and retained the office for several years. One of the first agents of the road at Worcester was Edwin Moody ; he had charge here for many years, and is, undoubtedly, well remembered by most of those who hear me. Among the early conductors of the road were Caleb S. Fuller, Thomas Tucker, George S. Howe ; and for a short time, Harnden, the founder of Harnden's Express. In 1837 R. W. Whiting advertises that he has made arrangements with the Boston and Worcester Railroad Company to occupy part of a car, to be run on passenger trains, and that he will take charge of all packages entrusted to his care, and deliver them the same day. This was probably the first regular express by rail between Worcester and Boston. Burke's New York and Boston Express, started in 1840, (the owners being P. B. Burke and Alvin Adams) was the beginning of the great Adams Express Company, now having offices throughout the country. Their first office in Worcester was at J. B. Tyler & Co.'s hat store.

Before the building we are in was erected, a small, one story wooden building stood on the spot, occupied at one time by Nathaniel Tead as a hat store, and afterwards as a periodical office. The building had been moved from somewhere on Main street, and is now in Bagelow court. Coming from the depot to Foster street, which had been opened about 1835-6 by Hon. A. D. Foster, we should see the south side of the American Temperance House, with its long portico extending the whole length of the building. The house was built originally by Mr. Foster as a residence, and occupied by him before he built the present family mansion on Chestnut street. In the basement, with an entrance under the side portico, was the shop of John Morey, the colored barber, well known to residents of Worcester twenty five or thirty years ago. A Mr. Stratton also had a clock store in the basement, with an entrance from Foster street. On the Main street front was a double portico, giving the house quite an imposing appearance.

The first landlord was Eleazer Porter, now living at a ripe old age in the town of Hadley, Mass., who some years before he opened the hotel had kept a store under the Town Hall, and after leaving the hotel was in partnership with George M. Rice.\* At the time of which I am writing, R. W. Adams was the proprietor; and if we called at the office we should be likely to find the genial clerk, Mr. Lyman Brooks, now so favorably known as the obliging superintendent of the Union Depot in this city. This hotel, I believe, was always kept on temperance principles, and had a good reputation. Another landlord, whom you will well remember, was the late Thomas Tucker, for several years keeper of the tavern at Westborough, Mass.



AMERICAN TEMPERANCE HOUSE.

A list of the taverns in Worcester at about the period of which I am writing may be of interest, and I therefore give one copied

\*In 1835 Mr. Porter bought of Alfred D. Foster for \$7,500, "one undivided moiety or half part of the estate lately occupied by him," described as "beginning at the center of the door yard post, corner of S. M. Burnside's land" and running south to land of Boston & Worcester R. R. Co., "before owned by Benj. Butman and John W. Stiles." In December, 1835, an agree-



from the manuscript of William Lincoln, the historian of Worcester, the original of which is in the library of the American Antiquarian Society. This list, prepared in 1837, gives the names of the landlords, most of whom were in the same taverns in 1840.

#### LIST OF TAVERNS IN WORCESTER IN 1837.\*

With the names of their Landlords

Lincoln Square Hotel, J. Fessenden. 1839, Nath'l Stearns.  
 Sumner Street House, Samuel Banister.  
 Exchange Coffee House, Samuel B. Thomas.  
 Eagle Hotel,† David Bonney. 1840, Geo. Hobbs.  
 Central Hotel, Zorrester Bonney.  
 American Temperance House, Eleazer Porter. 1840, R.W. Adams.  
 Worcester House, Lysander C. Clark. 1840, Henry Gould.  
 United States Hotel, Wm. C. Clark.  
 Washington Square Hotel, Wm. R. Wesson.

ment was made with the Boston & Worcester R. R. Co. to open Foster street, and in the spring of 1839, the Foster dwelling house was converted into a hotel. Mr. Porter advertises in the *Nat* of June 29, 1839, that "the American Temperance House is now completed . . . and opened for the reception of company"; and speaks of himself as "former keeper of the Worcester Temperance House." This last named hotel was at the corner of Main and Thomas streets, and was afterwards known as the Eagle Hotel. Warner H. Adams succeeded Mr. Porter there, and about 1840 George Hobbs was the landlord. In November, 1839, Mr. Porter deeded the American Temperance House property back to Mr. Foster, and soon after retired from the hotel business. The estate, as originally purchased by Mr. Porter, extended east nearly to the meadow, and the large stable connected with the hotel, standing a short distance back of it, was built by him.

\* In 1835 there appears to have been a tavern called the Railroad Hotel, mentioned by an advertisement in the *Nat* in October of that year, that "Joice Heath, 100 years of age, Nurse of Gen. Washington, was to be seen "at the Railroad House for the small sum of 25 cents." The Railroad House was in the John W. Storer building at the south corner of Foster and Main streets. It had a hall or stage in the rear, used for dances and exhibitions, and in 1835 was kept by Mr. Stowel. The hall was afterwards occupied by Jabez Bigelow, wine worker.

† The hotel was at one time called the Blackstone Canal House.

New Worcester, C. M. Deland.  
 Jones's Tavern. (Leicester road.)  
 Willard's Hotel, (Tatnuck.) — Willard.  
 Munroe's Tavern, (at Floating Bridge, Shrewsbury.) — Munroe.  
 Eaton Tavern,\* (Front St.) Aaron Howe. 1840, Mrs. J. Bradley.

As we came from Foster street to Main street, we should see as now on our right, and nearly opposite the Temperance House, the block erected by Benjamin Butman, known as Brinley Block. In the third story was a hall to which the same name as that of the block was applied; this for many years was the most desirable and popular place in town for lectures, concerts, exhibitions and dances.†

Here were held the famous cattle show balls, for many years considered as an important auxiliary of the show, which were attended by the elite of the town and prominent visitors who came to take part in the agricultural exhibition of the day. The hall was to my mind much handsomer than it is at present. Then the large wooden pillars on each side of the room gave it a very imposing appearance: the floor, too, was laid on springs, thus making it especially desirable for dancing.‡

In 1840 the *Spy* advertised as on exhibition at Brinley Hall, a grand moving diorama of "Washington crossing the Delaware"; "The Garden of Eden before the Fall, in which Adam and Eve were discovered before the tree of knowledge," &c. "Fowls of the air, aquatic birds and beasts, pass and repass, all giving life and helping to adorn this scene of domestic happiness." The "Battle of Bunker Hill and the burning of Charlestown" was also exhibited here with realistic effects. This, I remember, was highly appreciated by the more youthful members of the audience. It was, probably, this exhibition that Mr. John B. Gough refers to in his

\* Once called the Elephant Tavern, from its sign with the figure of an elephant painted on it.

† Now known as Grand Army Hall.

‡ Messrs. Smith and Weaver will be remembered by many of our citizens as the dancing masters of forty or fifty years ago who had classes in Brinley Hall.

interesting autobiography, from which it seems he was an important auxiliary in producing the dioramic effects. He says: "one part of my business was to turn the crank in bringing on the troops in the Battle of Bunker Hill"; another part "was to lie on my back during the bombardment of Charlestown, and while one man worked the figures at the guns, I was, at a signal, to apply a match to some powder I held on a piece of tin, for the flash, when another man struck the big drum for the report; often the report came before the flash, and sometimes no flash at all."

Among the occupants of Brinley Row at this time, was George L. Brown, since famous as a landscape artist. He advertised to give lessons in pencil drawing, also to paint portraits and miniatures. He painted a large picture on fifty square feet of canvas, representing the burning of the steamer Lexington, in Long Island Sound, on the night of January 13, 1840. Over one hundred lives were lost by this disaster, and Worcester was much excited over the event. Mr. Brown also made a drawing of the great fire in School street in August, 1838, which was engraved for the certificates of membership of the Worcester Fire Department. When Mr. Brown left Worcester for the purpose of visiting Italy to study his profession, he had an auction sale of his paintings here, and several of his early works were purchased by, and still remain in the possession of citizens of Worcester.

S. Reeves Leland also had rooms in the block, and offered his services to citizens of Worcester as an instructor of music upon the organ and pian-forte; and in 1843 he advertises as wholesale and retail dealer in musical instruments of all kinds, also a "first rate assortment of umbrellas and parasols of his own manufacture."

By the Directory of 1843 I find that our late esteemed fellow citizen, Lucius J. Knowles, had rooms in this block as a "photographer," and by his advertisement in the *Syn* it appears that he not only took daguerreotypes, but dealt largely in the instruments and chemicals used in the art.\* Although the Directory calls him

\* Mr. Knowles had probably been in Worcester but a short time when he started on the daguerreotype business, for in July, 1840, he was in the grocery business in Shrewsbury, having just dissolved partnership with Mr. John C. Newton.

a photographer, the word did not indicate what it does at present, for the art of photography, as we now understand it, was at that time in embryo, sun pictures on paper not being made here until several years later.

Julius L. Clark, the late Insurance Commissioner of Massachusetts, was keeping a dry goods store in Brinley Block ; and in 1842 Messrs. Wall [J. H.] & Southwick [E.] had opened a boot and shoe store there, having removed from the block just south of the United States Hotel. Moses D. Phillips, afterwards of the firm of Phillips, Sampson & Co., Boston, for several years kept a book-store in this block, and had upon his shelves the best publications of the day. He also sold paper hangings, was agent in Worcester for the celebrated Brandreth's pills, and, as its librarian, had the books of the Worcester Lyceum in his store.

Pliny Merrick, afterwards Judge of the Supreme Court, had an office up stairs under the hall, as did the late Judge Benjamin F. Thomas and George W. Richardson. Other occupants of stores in the block from 1838 to 1840 were Benjamin Butman, West India goods ; and T. W. & C. P. Bancroft, furniture ware rooms, later in the auction business.\*

The Citizens' Bank, with Francis T. Merrick as president, and George A. Trumbull as cashier, was in the store at the corner of Maple street, lately made so attractive by the opening of Mr. F. A. Knowlton's jewelry establishment. Up stairs was the office of the Manufacturer's Mutual Fire Insurance Company, with John W. Lincoln as president, and Samuel Allen as secretary. The printing office of the *Massachusetts Spy*, then under the management of the late John Milton Earle, was up the same stairway.

Turning to the south on Main street, at our right was the "Worcester House," with a circular driveway leading to the portico with its large wooden pillars, and a yard in front filled with horse chestnut and other shade trees. On the south side were beautiful large elms, the last of which was removed a few years ago by Mr. James H. Wall, then the owner and landlord of the Worcester House.

\* Mr. C. P. Bancroft is still living and carrying on the furniture business in Boston.

This was an old tavern location, Capt. Thomas Stearne being a landlord on this spot as early as 1732, and he was succeeded by his widow, Mary Stearne, in 1772, who kept the house (which before the Revolution was known as the "King's Arms") till her death in 1784. In 1773 and 4 it was the resort of the Loyalists, and also the place of meeting of the "American Political Society," which was composed of the leading Whigs of the town. It was in this old tavern that the famous Loyalist Protest of 1774 was prepared by James Putnam, Dr. William Paine, and other prominent Loyalists of the town. This protest, you will remember, was entered on the town records by Clark Chandler, (nephew of Sheriff Gardiner Chandler,) the Tory Town Clerk, who was afterwards obliged by the patriotic men of Worcester, and in their presence, "to obliterate, erase, or otherwise deface the said recorded protest, and the names thereto subscribed, so that it may become utterly illegible and unintelligible." That this was most effectually done may be seen by examining the records now in charge of the City Clerk.\*

Many years later the late Gov. Levi Lincoln came into possession of the property and erected a brick dwelling house, occupying it for several years until he built the Lincoln mansion on Elm street, now owned by his grandson, Mr. Waldo Lincoln. In 1824 the Marquis de Lafayette was the guest of Judge Lincoln† in this house, as were afterwards many other distinguished men, who undoubtedly fully appreciated the generous hospitality for which their host was noted. The house and grounds immediately surrounding it came into the hands of David T. Brigham about the year 1835, who converted it into a hotel, and was for a time its landlord. He added wings on each side of the house, as shown in the large lithograph of the "Worcester House" published in 1837 or 8. At this

\* A reduced facsimile of a page of the town record was made by the heliotype process and published in 1876 in a paper prepared by the writer of these "Recollections," entitled, "Historical and Chronological Notes on the Town of Worcester."

† Mr. Lincoln had lately received an appointment to the bench of the Supreme Court.

time Lysander C. Clark (brother of William C. Clark) had become the landlord, and remained there for three or four years.\*

Mr. Brigham was well known in Worcester as a speculator, especially in real estate, and I have recently seen evidence of this in the form of a circular advertisement issued by him in the summer of 1836. In this he announces the sale by auction in Boston, of seventy-five building lots on Union Hill in Worcester, and after calling attention to the prosperity and rapid growth of the town, says: "There are twenty cotton, woolen, wire and paper mills, and machine factories. . . . The population of the town has more than doubled since the census of 1830"; and as if to add especial weight to what he had said as to the desirability of the property offered for sale, concludes the advertisement in these words: "I am interested in the above property, and all the statements may be relied upon." I am not informed as to the number of lots sold, or the general financial success of the speculation, but the experience of later investors in the same locality, was not, I believe, considered very remunerative.

I have said that Lysander C. Clark opened the hotel about 1837; he was succeeded, I think, by Hiram Gould, who became the landlord in 1840 or 41, and in May of the last named year announces in the *Spr.* that "in consequence of strong expressions of public sentiment against the sale of spirituous liquors at hotels," and for other reasons, "he had closed his bar, and discontinued the sale of liquor"; and that the house thereafter would be known as the "Worcester Temperance House."

In 1840 Mr. Richard Eastcott and Mr. Alexander Hamilton, (known, probably, to most of you as Edward Hamilton, he having had his name changed soon after this period,) had rooms at the

\*A late wood engraving of the Lincoln mansion represents it with the wings above alluded to, but this is a mistake of the artist, for they were not a part of the house when occupied by Gov. Lincoln. I was informed by the late Samuel Foster Haven, LL. D., that he was one of the first occupants of a room in the south wing, and there are many now living who remember when the addition was made by Mr. Brigham.





WORCESTER HOUSE

RESIDENCE OF GOV. LEVI LINCOLN, 1834.





Worcester House, where they gave lessons in music. Mr. Eastcott will be remembered by many as a jolly and dapper little English man, who occasionally gave concerts, playing himself either on the piano or violin. He was often assisted in these concerts by Mr. Hamilton, R. D. Dunbar, Emory Perry and S. R. Leland, names well known to all the music loving people of the town.

Passing Elm street on our way south we should find as now, Butman or Merchants Row, built in 1835-6, and extending to Pearl street, presenting the same general appearance as it does to-day, the modern improvement of large plate glass windows in the lower story excepted. The first store, corner of Main and Elm streets, was occupied in 1839 by William and Stephen T. Cee, apothecaries, which firm was dissolved in November, 1840, by the death of the junior partner. This store, known then as No. 9 Merchants Row, or No. 188 Main street, was shortly after occupied by the dry goods and notions store of Daniel Heywood.\*

Over this corner store, at the rear, was for many years the office of Samuel M. Burnside, a well known lawyer of his day. He was tall and thin, with very striking features, which rendered him a person of rather marked appearance in our streets. He was a man of the strictest integrity, of sound learning, interested in literary pursuits, and especially in education and our common school system. In February, 1828, he issued a circular in which he announced his intention of opening a "Law School" in Worcester. In it he says: "Most of the members of the Bar have given assurance of their approbation of the plan." The pupils were "to be instructed daily together, or in classes in a hall to be provided for the purpose, by lectures, recitations and other exercises." I have not been able to ascertain whether anything ever came from this circular, or that the school was started.

Up the same stairway with Mr. Burnside's office, at about the same period, was the office of Dr. Oliver H. Blood, "Surgeon Dentist", he was there as early as 1837, and for several years after.

\* It was quite common to advertise all the stores in Butman Row as opposite the Boston and Worcester R. R. Depot.

An occupant of another room was Dr. H. G. Davis, who was there in October, 1839. Marsh and Emerson also had their pianoforte manufacturing rooms here, being the first makers of that instrument in Worcester; after a few years of business here they removed to Providence.

T. W. Butterfield & Co., (A. H. Bullock) publishers of the *National Ægis*, had their printing office in the third story, in the rooms now connected with the publication of the *Evening Gazette*. The editor of the *Ægis* in 1840 was the late Samuel F. Haven, LL. D., for many years the learned librarian of the American Antiquarian Society. He was succeeded in the editorial chair by the late Hon. Alexander H. Bullock.

In 1838 the next store in the Row (No. 7) was occupied by Rufus D. Dunbar, watchmaker and jeweller, who, in October of that year, formed a copartnership with Simeon N. Story. (Still in business on Main street.) After remaining there a short time, the firm removed farther north on Main street, this location being considered too far up town for successful business. They were succeeded in this store by Nathaniel Tead, hatter; and in 1842 Handy, Luther & Co. had opened a clothing store there, the business being still carried on in the same place by Bigelow & Longley.

The next store, known as 194 Main street, was opened soon after the block was completed, by Francis Blake, who did a large business in the West India goods trade. He advertises in the *Spy* an extensive assortment of all ordinary groceries, also wines and ale, and much that is now known under the name of fancy groceries, such as preserves, dried fruits, sardines, &c., also choice Havana cigars,—and in those days *real* Havana cigars could be bought in Worcester at a moderate price. Mr. Blake was succeeded by Butman (Benj.) & Burt, (Simeon) who continued the business, and in 1842-3 were occupying the store.

The next door, where the entrance to the editorial room of the *Gazette* now is, would take us up stairs to the law office of William Lincoln, better known to us as the historian of Worcester than as a lawyer. Mr. Lincoln died at the early age of forty-two, but left behind him abundant evidence that he was a worker in other fields than that of the law, and that he was called upon to serve the town in

many ways. He was much interested in the public schools, serving on the school board several years, and always taking an interest in educational matters. He was also actively interested in the Agricultural Society, and, as chairman of one of the committees on premiums, often prepared reports which are still remembered as sparkling with wit and humor, and abounding with practical suggestions. His great work, however, was the "History of Worcester," and although with the greater facilities we have to day, and information that the lapse of time has brought to light, we may now find some errors and many omissions, it is still more full and complete than anything since published on the subject. That he made great efforts to get at the truth and to present the facts, is evident to anyone who has examined the vast amount of manuscript matter left by him and now in the library of the American Antiquarian Society. Here are copies of letters of inquiry to prominent citizens asking for information as to some local event in the history of the town, or for statistics as to the business done here; also letters from the officials at the State House, answering questions in regard to material there. Besides, there are pages of manuscript copied from the state and town archives, both by himself and officials, showing that he took great pains to get at the original material; and if his life had been spared, the new edition he was at work upon would have undoubtedly shown that he was ready to correct, as well as to add to, the matter in the first edition.

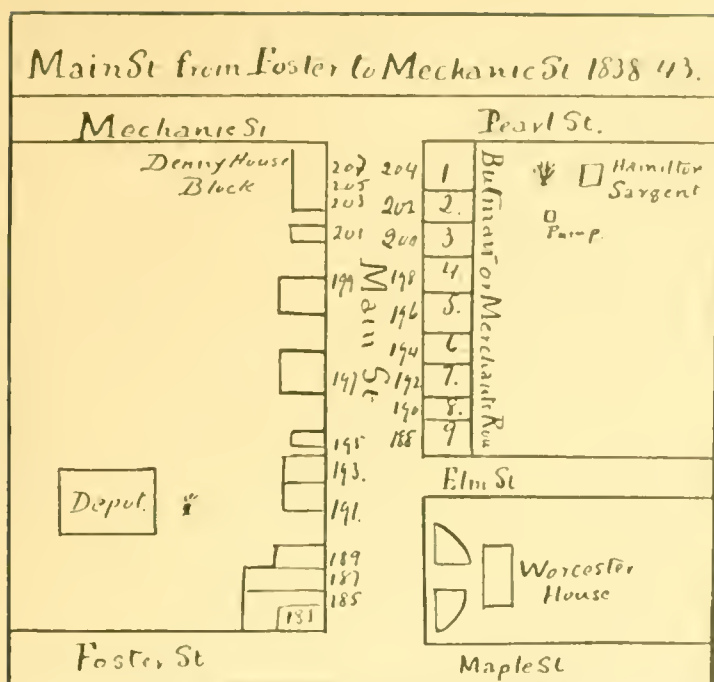
The next store, No. 4 in the Row, (No. 198 Main street) where Mr. Lind now carries on the watch and jewelry business, was in 1839 occupied by Mr. H. H. Chamberlin, (a member of this Society who has added valuable local historical items to its archives) as "dealer in carpets, feathers and furnishing goods." The previous year he had been in "Brinley Row," and in March, 1840, removed to "Paine's Block," having bought out Mr. H. Sabin, Jr., dealer in crockery and earthen ware. This business was carried on for a while by Mr. Chamberlin in connection with the sale of dry goods, a combination of trades not uncommon at that time. Mr. H. B. Chilin, now doing an extensive business in New York, and then in the dry goods trade here, also dealt largely in china and earthen ware.

Mr. Chamberlin was succeeded in this store by Joel Fletcher, who in June, 1840, advertises that he has "for sale at No. 4 Butman Row, Confectionery, Cake, Ice Cream and Soda." In September, 1840, Mr. J. W. Hartwell occupied it, and in November of the same year, B. F. Mann, both of whom were in the dry goods business. Two or three years later, Mr. J. H. Everett, a rather eccentric individual, was occupying the same store and in the same business.

J. P. Kettell was one of the original occupants of the "Row," having removed there from "Goddard's Row," which was north of Thomas street. He was in the hat, cap and fur business, and only remained a few years in the block, when he removed farther down street, which in that day was considered a more eligible position for business. In June, 1841, after the fire in the block opposite, this store was for a short time occupied by J. B. Tyler & Co., then by J. H. Rickett in the dry goods business.\* The latter was succeeded by Meltiah B. Green, under the firm name of James Green & Co., who for many years dealt out drugs and patent medicines, and compounded prescriptions for the ailing. The newspapers of that day show that patent medicines for the cure of all diseases that flesh is heir to, were about as plenty then as now, a page and a half of the *Spy* being taken up with advertisements extolling the healing powers of "Indian Balsam," "Balm of Life," Soothing Syrups, Matchless Sanative, Jayne's Expectorant, Compound Tomato Pills, and Phelps's Arcanum. Some of my hearers will probably remember the elaborate lithograph, issued to call attention to the merits of the last named preparation. This picture, with its rows of bottles supporting a dome or canopy, over which floated a winged figure with a scroll bearing the words: "Phelps's Arcanum," and about the base boxes of the medicine directed to all parts of the world, derives special interest from the fact that it was designed and drawn on the stone by George L. Brown, before spoken of, and now an eminent American landscape artist.†

\* This was the store now occupied by the Adams Express Company. J. B. Tyler was for many years messenger for Leonard's Boston & Worcester Express.

† Represented in the lithograph were twenty or more men and women sup-



A rough diagram of Main Street, between Foster and Mechanic Streets.

|          |                                |          |                                |
|----------|--------------------------------|----------|--------------------------------|
| No. 207. | Blanchard & Lesure,....1839.   | No. 201. | W. & A. Brown, .....1835.      |
|          | Lesure & Wyzant,.....1840.     |          | Emory Washburn, .. .1840.      |
| 205.     | F. W. Eaton & Co., ....1841.   | 202.     | Chas. W. Hartshorn . . .1840.  |
| 203.     | J. P. Southgate & Co.,...1838. |          | I. M. Barton.                  |
|          | W. D. Lewis,.....1839.         |          | J. P. Kettell & Co.,.....1835. |
| 201.     | Lakin & Bemis,.....1840.       |          | J. B. Tyler & Co.,.....1841.   |
|          | H. Sablin & Co., .....1838.    | 200.     | J. H. Rickett,.....1841.       |
| 199.     | Leonard & Tyler, .....1839.    |          | M. B. Green.                   |
|          | J. B. Tyler & Co.,.....1840.   |          | H. H. Chamberlin,.....1839.    |
| 197.     | E. F. Dixie & Co.,.....1840.   |          | J. Fletcher,.....1840.         |
|          | Caleb Newcomb,                 | 198.     | J. B. Hartwell, .....1840.     |
|          | James H. Wall, .....1840.      |          | B. P. Munn & Co.               |
| 195.     | Wm. Coe,                       |          | J. H. Everett.                 |
|          | John Warden,.....1841.         | 196.     | Wm. Lincoln, ....1836.         |
|          | C. C. Clapp,.....1840.         |          | Francis Blake,.....1836.       |
| 193.     | S. P. Fitch, .. .1842.         | 194.     | Butman & Bart,.....1842.       |
| 191.     | Levi Clapp, .. .1840.          |          | Dunbar (R. D.), Buzlow         |
|          | Nathan Harkness, ..1870.       |          | John & Co., ....1836.          |
| 189.     | Simon Thompson, . .1841.       | 192.     | Dunbar & Story, ....1848.      |
|          | A. M. De soil, ..1841.         |          | Nathl Paul, .....1840.         |
| 187.     | Henry Scott, ..1839.           |          | Handy, Luther & Co., ..1842.   |
| 185.     | Jabez Bigelow, ..1830.         |          | S. M. Burnside, .....1840.     |
|          |                                |          | Marsh & Emerson, . .1870.      |
|          |                                | 190.     | National Tools . . .1840.      |
|          |                                |          | O. H. Blood, M. D. .1843.      |
|          |                                |          | W. & F. B. Co., ..1845.        |
|          |                                | 188.     | W. & S. T. Co., ..1837.        |
|          |                                |          | D. Heywood                     |



Next door south, up stairs, were the offices of Emory Washburn, Charles W. Hartshorn, Ira M. Barton, and other lawyers. The Pearl street corner store of this block was continuously occupied from the time of its completion in 1835-6 until 1870, a period of about thirty-five years, by members of the same family, and in the same business, that of merchant tailors. The firm of William & Albert Brown were the first occupants, and were succeeded by W. & A. Brown & Co., the company being Theophilus Brown, then by W. & T. Brown. A son of the last named, W. T. Brown, still carries on the business on Main street, a few doors farther south.

Just in the rear of this block, on Pearl street, was the house occupied early in 1840 by the late Charles A. Hamilton, and later in the same year by Dr. Joseph Sargent, who removed from a house on the other side of Pearl street, where Chapin Block now is. Under a large elm tree just east of this house, between that and Buttrick Row, was a rendezvous for the boys of the neighborhood after school hours. Here we had our games of "I spy," marbles, etc., or made plans for foot ball and other out-door sports to take place in the open space at the head of Pearl street, and just west of the present location of Plymouth Church.

At the south corner of Main and Pearl streets, where the City National Bank now is, was in 1840 the hardware store of Calvin Foster & Co. This store, at some time previous to 1836, had been owned and occupied by Merrick & Dowley. In 1837 Newcomb, (Caleb) Brown (Abijah) & Co. (the company being Calvin Foster) moved from the corner of Main and Front streets to this store. The firm was dissolved in March, 1838, and Newcomb & Foster took the business (hardware, stoves and tinware) under the name of C. Newcomb & Co.; they in turn were succeeded by Newcomb & Bowen. (E. H.) In June, 1840, a copartnership was formed between Mr. Foster and Amos Brown, and they continued the business under the name of Calvin Foster & Co., the senior partner remaining in the business there for years after.

placed to have been healed by the use of the "Areamina," one of whom is said to be Philip, the inventor. Others the portrait of citizen of Shrewsbury, the home of the inventor.

In the second story of this building Stephen Bartlett, collector of taxes for the town and some of the religious parishes, had an office. The building, which you will remember as a wooden one, two stories high, and two or three steps at the front entrance, was removed in 1853-4, when the present iron front store was erected by Mr. Foster.\*

The next building was the two-story brick store, owned by Judge Nathaniel Paine, the ground on which it stood now being covered by the store of Ware, Pratt & Co. Here in 1839-40 Daniel Heywood carried on the dry goods business, dealing more especially in small goods, tapes, buttons, needles and the like. Some years earlier Heywood, Paine (F. W.) & Paine (Gardiner) were in this building, doing a large mercantile business for that day. Other occupants since Mr. Heywood have been E. F. Dixie in the grocery, and George Bowen in the hide and leather business. The office over the store was occupied by Henry Paine, counsellor at law. He was twin brother of Charles Paine, who in 1841-2, built a brick block on the corner of Main and Pleasant streets. Dr. Henry G. Bates was also an occupant of this office.

On the corner of Main and Pleasant streets was the estate of Nathaniel Paine, Judge of Probate for the County of Worcester thirty-five years. The house, which was removed in 1843-4 to Salem street, where it now is, was a large square building, shingled on the outside, the front door being in the center. At the rear was a long extension, in which was an old-time kitchen, a large open fire place with its iron crane being conspicuous therein; back of this came the wash room, etc. In the rear of this was the wood shed, long enough, I should think, to make a good bowling alley, then came the corn and grain house, and on the south side next to Pleasant street, the barn, which was about where the Second Baptist Church now stands. Back of this was the orchard and vegetable garden, extending nearly up to Chestnut street. The house was surrounded by shade trees; in front, I remember, were large butternuts, and on the south side, two immense mulberry trees, while on Pleasant street, along the whole line of the lot, were

\*This was the first complete iron front building erected in New England.



buttonwoods. On the corner was a small one-story building, used as an office by Judge Paine, which after his death was for a short time occupied by a William Jones as a barber's shop. It was on Judge Paine's garden fence, on Pleasant street, that, fifty or sixty years ago, the old Fire Society kept one of their long ladders for use in case of fire. These ladders were occasionally borrowed by builders when any especially high building was to be constructed, as was the case when the first Worcester Bank block on Main street was erected in 1804.\*

My remembrance of my grandfather, though somewhat indistinct, is, that he was quite tall and very straight, of a florid complexion, and rather a stern and dignified appearance. He used to wear a long white neck handkerchief wound several times about his neck, and a long, light colored surtout with two or three capes, all of which was very impressive to my youthful mind.

I have already spoken of the American Temperance House at the north corner of Main and Foster streets. Near the south corner we should have found a two-story wooden building, (formerly owned and occupied by John W. Stiles as a dwelling house) with an ell part projecting out to Foster street. In this ell part, with an entrance from Foster street, were rooms up stairs occupied in 1839-40 by Jabez Bigelow, wire worker and weaver, who was afterwards in this part of the building on Norwich street, to which place it was removed when the erection of the Universalist church was decided upon. It now forms a part of the building occupied by George H. Clark and Henry W. Eddy. Mr. Samuel Wilmarth, one of the first engineers of the Boston and Worcester railroad, also lived for some time in the second story of the Stiles house. There were two stores in this building, with entrances on Main street, the first being occupied by Henry Scott, the colored barber; and in 1839-40 Nathan Harkness (for many years City bill poster) kept a cake and confectionery store in the south side. This last named store was, a year or two later, occupied by Simeon Thompson as a news-

\* The Port House was occupied for a short time after Mr. Charles Paine (son of the Judge) left it in 1844, by Joseph Lowell and Charles H. Rice.

paper agency, and for the sale of fruit and confectionery.\* Here he sold the *Olive Branch*, *Boston Notion*, *Brother Jonathan*, *Yankee Nation* and other papers whose names were familiar forty years ago. Mr. A. M. Driscoll, in the watchmaking and jewelry business, was for a year or two in the store with Mr. Thompson.

Next south, across the passage way to the depot, was the hat and cap store of Levi Clapp, it being on the same spot as that now occupied by his son, F. A. Clapp, who continues the business. In this building was also the store of Charles C. Clapp (shoe findings), and S. P. Fitch, who had bought out James H. Wall, in the boot and shoe business. The next building, a small wooden one, was occupied about 1840 by James H. Wall for a short time, and then by William Coe, the druggist, who had removed from the opposite side of the street. In the second story of this store was John Warden, the tailor, about 1840-41.

Across another passage way to the depot, was the grocery store of E. F. Dixie (previously occupied by Benj. Butman in the same business); he was succeeded in this store by Caleb Newcomb, in the hardware, stove and tinware trade. The next store south on Main street was, in 1838, occupied by H. Sabin, Jr., in the crockery and glass ware trade. He was succeeded, in January, 1839, by Leonard (S. S.) & Tyler (J. B.), hatters, who, in February, 1840, dissolved partnership, J. B. Tyler & Co. continuing the business, the company being J. H. Knights. Mr. Leonard had started his Boston and Worcester express in August, 1840, with his headquarters in the store of J. B. Tyler & Co.; and his son, Gen. S. H. Leonard, sold papers and periodicals at the same place.

Next was a passage way leading to the livery stable of Nahum Parker, and then a small wooden building erected by E. F. Dixie, where in 1840-41 Lakin & Bemis manufactured and sold boots and shoes. On the corner of Main and Mechanic streets was a two-story wooden building, known as the Denny house; this was occupied at the time of the fire of May 30, 1841, which destroyed this and the next two buildings north, by Francis W. Eaton

\* Mr. Thompson had previously been in a store near the Central Exchange, and was agent for Harnden & Co.'s Express.

& Co.,\* tailors, and J. P. Southgate & Co.'s shoe and leather store, the company being Solomon Frask. Blanchard & Lesure, tailors, were in the north store of this building early in 1840. In May, 1838, Mr. Southgate and James H. Wall formed a copartnership and had a store in this building; they were succeeded there in February, 1839, by W. D. Lewis, merchant tailor. At the time of the fire, a Mr. Mentzer had a victualling cellar in the basement, which two years earlier had been occupied by Mr. A. Thompson, who, in the *Star* of December, 1839, advertises that he has taken the cellar at the corner of Main and Mechanic streets, "where may be found at all times, lots of stuff to gratify the taste of the epicure, and give vigor to the faint and weary." What this "stuff" was we are left to imagine, but the eleven o'clock callers of that day could have probably spoken from experience.

The fire of 1841 was a destructive one, and besides the buildings I have named as burnt, that of Mr. Dixie very narrowly escaped. Our highly esteemed fellow citizen, Henry W. Miller, was Chief Engineer of the Fire Department at the time of this fire, and the late Osgood Bradley was one of his assistants. A new block was erected on the corner by George Bowen, which was also destroyed by fire in May, 1844, the occupants then being E. H. Bowen & Co., Perkins & Flanders, Lakin & Bemis, A. P. Lesure, and Fenney (J. A.) & Rice (Charles), the last named firm having a restaurant in the basement of the north store.

At the south corner of Mechanic street we should find a small, one story wooden building, used for many years as a stage office, occupied by Simeon Burt, Alvan Allen, and others interested in staging fifty years ago. After the Central Exchange was burnt in 1813, the Post Office, then under the care of Marwin L. Fisher, was for a time in this building; and still later L. L. Mason kept a jewelry store there.

The United States Hotel, which formerly stood where Clark's Block now is, was built about 1818 by William Hovey, inventor and manufacturer of the straw and hay cutters much in use thirty

\* E. W. Lakin & Co. succeeded in March, 1841, Lesure & Wygant, in the store four stories north of the United States Hotel.

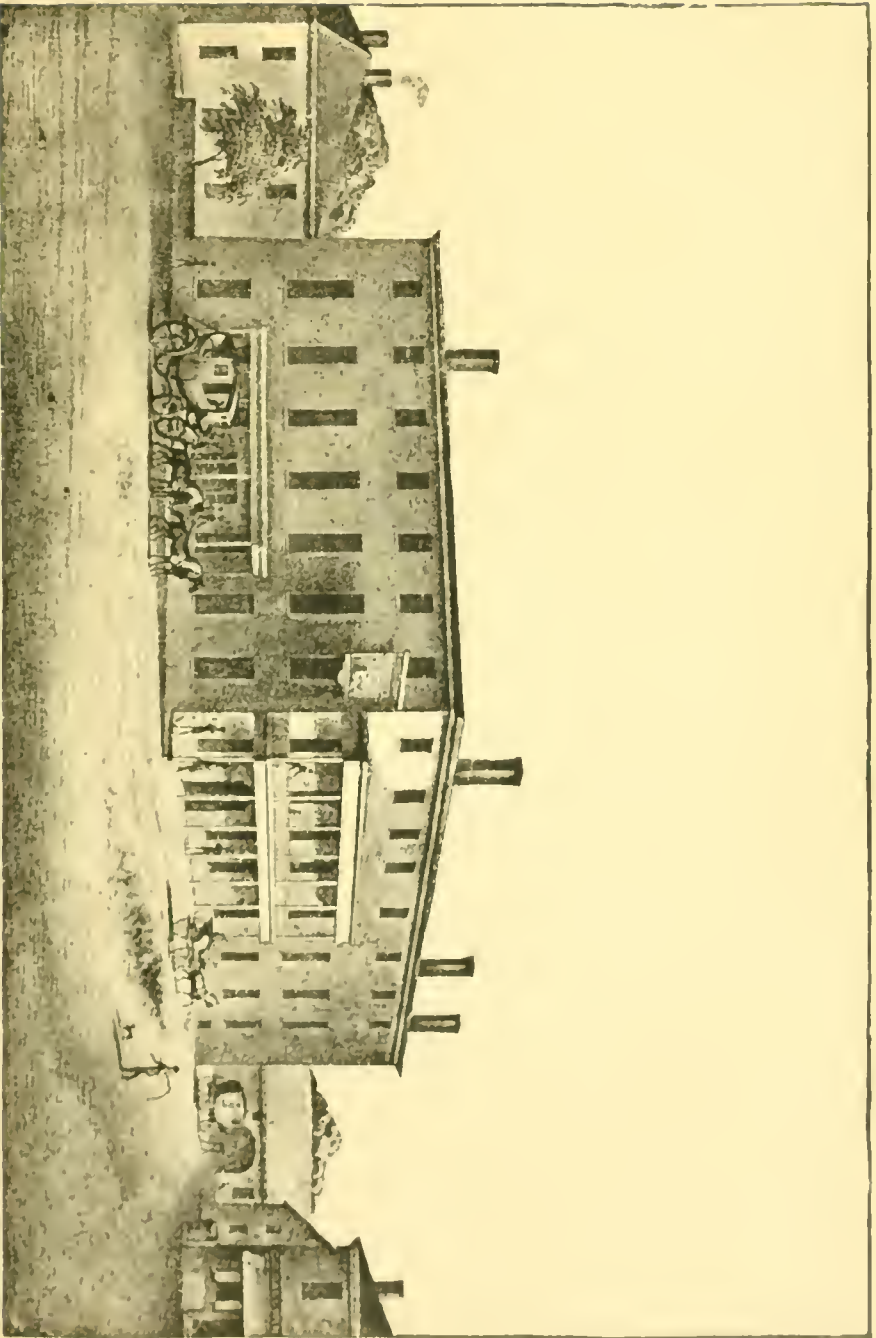
or forty years ago. It was at first called the Worcester Hotel, and in 1820 was kept by Oliver Eager. In 1827 the late George T. Rice purchased it, and it was afterwards known as the United States Hotel. In 1840 and a few years after the landlord was William C. Clark.

It was on this spot that the first tavern, after the final settlement of the town, was built by Capt. Moses Rice, the land having been set off to him by the "Proprietors," and a plan of it can be seen in the volume of the "Proprietors' Records" recently published by the Society of Antiquity. In September, 1742, the property came into the hands of Col. John Chandler, known afterwards as the "Honest Refugee." He resided here until about the time of the Revolution, when the property was confiscated, Col. Chandler being a pronounced Tory, and having gone to England about the breaking out of the war. It was afterwards assigned to Mrs. Chandler as her dower, she remaining at home instead of accompanying her husband. In 1803 it became the property of Capt. Ephraim Mower, who had kept it as a hotel since 1791; and as I have stated, it became in 1818 the property of William Hovey.

Crossing the driveway to the stables of the hotel, we come to the two-story wooden building, in the second story of which, as early as 1827, Christopher Columbus Baldwin had an office. He was librarian of the American Antiquarian Society from 1831 to 1835, and in 1829 editor of the *National Aegis*. The first store in this building, going south, was, in 1837, occupied by John Birney, in the tailoring and clothing business, who, in December of that year, was succeeded by W. D. Lewis. In 1839 Lakin & Stone, boot and shoe manufacturers, were in this building, and in 1842-3 J. P. Southgate was carrying on the shoe findings business here; at the same time Mr. Charles Rice was keeping a restaurant in the basement. In 1843 the south store was occupied by S. Billings, dealer in hats and caps.\*

Next was the low wooden building, with several stores, known as the "Old Compound." There were so frequent changes in the

\* Leonard Brigham (E. L. Brigham), merchant tailor, occupied the first store south from the hotel in 1835, and about the same time Henry Scott, the barber, had a room up stairs in the same building.



WORCESTER HOTEL, 1820, UNITED STATES HOTEL, 1827.



occupants of this building between 1836 and 1843, that it is difficult to give with accuracy the dates of occupancy. Among the earliest in business here may be mentioned C. Newcomb & Co. (stoves and hardware), who were in the corner store, and John Weiss, the barber. The latter I well remember as a quiet, pleasant old gentleman, who always had a kind word for his patrons, particularly for the boys who came to have their hair cut. In 1839 Jeremiah Bond was in the corner store, having removed from the one two or three doors north; and in 1840 John Coe, the apothecary, occupied the same store. In 1844 Clough, the colored barber, had his shop in the building, as did C. B. Robbins (boots and shoes), and S. P. Champney (jeweler).

On the west side of Main street, at the south corner of Pleasant, was the West India goods and grocery store of James Shepard & Son; they had moved from the south store in the same block, and Mr. Shepard, senior, had some years before had a store in the basement of the Town Hall. L. A. Dowley also carried on the shoe and leather business in this block, and there was a third store in the block, but who the occupants were in 1840 I do not remember. Just beyond, and nearly opposite the Town Hall, was a small, one-story building, in which W. A. Draper & Co. (Otis Corbett) dealt in leather and hides.\*

The Isaac Davis house and grounds, opposite the Old South Church, you are all probably familiar with, as the house was removed only a few years ago, to make room for business blocks. The garden of Col. Davis, with trees, shrubs and flowers, made the place very attractive. Back of the house, and not far from the present location of the Fire Patrol, was a greenhouse filled with beautiful flowers. This, with the fountain in the garden on the north side of the house, were considered, forty years ago, as novelties; the fountain was the only one that I can remember as in the town at that time. Col. Davis purchased the lot on which he built his house, of Benjamin Butman in 1836, for about \$5000.

On the site now covered by the stone front block of Mr. R. C.

\* The parsonage house of the Rev. Isaac Boutwell, the second minister of the Old South Church, was on the south corner of Main and Pleasant streets, about one hundred years earlier than the time of which I am speaking.



Taylor, was the residence of the late Judge Ira M. Barton. This was one of the ancient mansions of the town, having been built, it is supposed, about the year 1750, by Sheriff Gardiner Chandler,\* at which time the estate comprised several acres of land. Sheriff Chandler bought this land of Daniel Ward in May, 1750, for £326. 13. 4, and built his house a little north of Mr. Ward's old residence. After Sheriff Chandler's death the property came into the possession of his son, Gardiner Leonard Chandler, and he, in September, 1800, sold the house, barn, and thirty-one and one-half acres of land, to Jotham Bush for \$5,500. In 1805 it was conveyed to John Bush, Jr., and in 1818 Richard, son of the last named, sold it for \$9000 to Benjamin Butman, who lived here for a few years, and in 1827 sold the house and ground immediately about it to Calvin Willard,† for twenty years High Sheriff of Worcester County, who lived there three or four years.

In 1831 Mr. Willard conveyed the property to eleven gentlemen of Worcester,‡ who purchased it, as I have been informed, for the purpose of establishing in the mansion a first class private school for the education of young ladies. In 1832 a Mrs. Wells opened a boarding school for young ladies in the house, and subsequently John Wright carried it on for a few years. Mr. Wright will be remembered as the successor of Charles Thurber, teacher of the Latin grammar school on Thomas street.

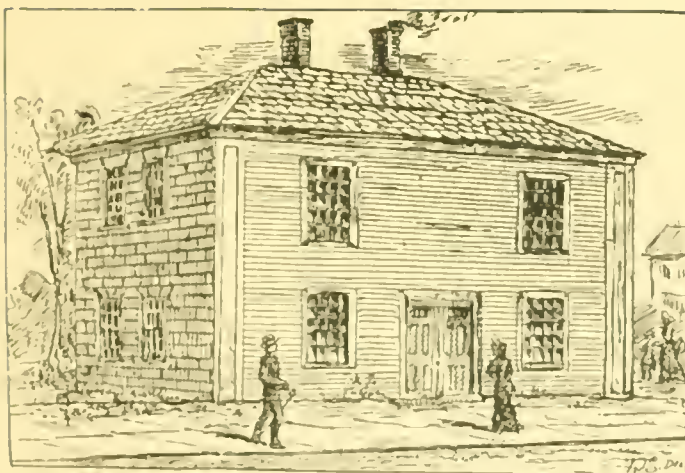
The Chandler mansion, which stood at the foot of what was

\*Sheriff Chandler was a son of Hon. John Chandler, who came to Worcester from Woodstock at the time the County was established.

†Sheriff Willard is remembered as a gentleman of the old school, very dignified, polite and courteous to all, who died in September, 1867, honored and respected by the community in which he had so long resided. He seemed to add a special dignity to the Court as he ushered them to the Bench, dressed in his blue coat with gilt buttons, a buff vest, ruffled shirt, and his sword of office buckled about his waist.

‡The gentlemen who purchased the property of Sheriff Willard were Rejoice Newton, Levi Lincoln, John Davis, Isaac Davis, Pliny Merrick, George T. Rice, Abijah Bigelow, Benjamin Butman, Thomas Kinnicutt, Alfred D. Foster and Simeon Burt. Mr. Foster soon sold out his interest to one of the other owners.





PARSONAGE HOUSE OF REV. ISAAC BURR,  
CORNER OF MAIN AND PLEASANT STREETS, 1790.





THE CHANDLER (BARTON) MANSION.

BUILT ABOUT 1750.



known as Nobility hill, came into the possession of the late Judge Barton in 1834, and he resided there until his death in 1867. In a large room in the three-story ell on the north side, there used to be, as I am informed by Mr. William S. Barton, a fine piece of wood carving over the mantle, representing the lion and unicorn. The wood cut illustration of the Chandler or Barton house, here given, is from a photograph taken a short time before it was demolished, and gives a good idea of its appearance at that time. In the yard in front, and also on Main street, were tall buttonwood trees planted by Sheriff Chandler, which, with the shrubbery, made it one of the most attractive old time mansions and grounds in town. The artist who copied the photograph has made the barn of Col. Isaac Davis, just north of the house, appear as an ell, and has also neglected to indicate the low windows in the third story of the true ell.

It was not my intention in this paper to speak of any buildings on Main street south of Park street, but I will mention the house of the late Judge Charles Allen, which was on the south corner of Park street, with its garden extending for some distance on Main street, and back to the Norwich and Worcester railroad. On the opposite side of Main street, and extending nearly to Austin street, was "Nobility Hill"; among the residents there were Edward Denney (in the Dr. Sargent house), Anthony Chase (1843), and George F. Rice.

Of the Old South Church, built in 1763, it is not necessary to say much, as its history is well known to you all, and is often referred to in the publications of this Society. In the early days of the town this church was used not only for religious services but as a place for town meetings, for the annual elections, and any business requiring the action or approval of the citizens. The Declaration of Independence was first publicly read in Massachusetts from the roof of the west porch of this church, the reader being Isaiah Thomas, the patriotic editor of the *Massachusetts Spy*; and it was in the *Spy* that the Declaration was printed, July 17, 1776, for the first time in a New England newspaper. Various changes have been made in the appearance of this ancient edifice since its erection, both in its exterior and interior; but I think that

the members of this Society will agree with me in thinking that it is a great pity this historic building of our city could not have been allowed to retain more of its old-time beauty and simplicity.

The Town Hall, as originally erected in 1824-5, was a much smaller building than it now is, it having been enlarged by an addition to the east end about the year 1841. In this year there were three entrance doors in front, there having been but two originally. Some years later, in order to make more room for offices, one of the stairways was removed, and at the same time the doors on each side of the center were given up.\* The lower story, over the present police office and lockup, was arranged for two small halls, known as the east and west town halls, and were used for meetings of societies and political gatherings, and also rented for exhibitions and various other purposes. After the enlargement of the building, the upper hall was for several years used by the town for elections and other municipal purposes. For many years the lectures of the Worcester Lyceum were given in this hall. Here, too, in 1851, Jenny Lind sang before one of the largest audiences ever gathered within its walls; and the first concerts of the famous Germania Band in Worcester were given there, the popular director of our Musical Festivals, Carl Zerrahn, being the flutist, and William Schultze, first violin.

The east and west town halls were used at the time of the annual cattle show for the exhibition of dairy products, needle work, and other useful and fancy articles which made up the indoor exhibition of that day. In the basement of the building, now used for police purposes, were three stores, occupied at various times by L. Burnet & Co. (G. Paine), Horace Ayres and James Shepard, in the grocery business; and Joseph Converse, Leonard White, butchers, and others. At the east end, with an entrance from the Common, was the engine house of Company No. 4, known as the "Torrent."

In the upper hall, the speaker's desk was, for several years after

\* The corner stone of the Town Hall was laid August 2, 1824, with masonic ceremonies; and the dedication took place May 2, 1825, with an address by Hon. John Davis.



VIEW OF MAIN STREET, LOOKING NORTH,

SHOWING PART OF "NOMINITY HILL," 1810.







OLD SOUTH CHURCH, 1763.



the enlargement of the building, on the north side, three rows of benches, one raised above the other, extended round three sides of the room. The platform was afterwards removed to the east end, the gallery there being taken away to make room for it. The Worcester Guards at one time had their armory in the attic at the west front of the building. On Clarendon Harris's map of the town, published in 1820, is a cut showing the Town Hall as it was when first built; another cut, published a few years ago, shows its appearance before the town pump and the large elm trees at the head of Front street were removed. It was under these trees that blind Dexter, the showman, used to station his exhibition wagon, with its wonderful collection of waxworks, which if Dickens had seen, might have given him material for additions to his account of the famous collection of Mrs. Jarley. Mr. Dexter I remember as a very corpulent man, walking with difficulty and totally blind; but notwithstanding his infirmity, he was not easily deceived by the street gamins of that day, when they undertook to palm off on him a counterfeit coin, or a ten cent piece instead of a ninepence, the regular price of admission. Those of you, who as boys saw the van which carried the show, looking very much like the traveling daguerreotype palace of our day, will undoubtedly recall it, and the enjoyment you derived from seeing the "lifelike" representations of Washington, Gen. Jackson, or the blood-curdling murder of Jane McCrea by the Indians, on exhibition inside.

The Common, as you know, was originally much larger than it now is, extending as far north on Main street as Mechanic street, but was reduced to its present limits long previous to the time of which I am speaking. About 1840 or a little earlier, it presented a very different appearance from what it does to day, then two streets ran diagonally across it, one from Front to Park street, with a guide board at the westerly end informing the traveler that it was the road to Millbury and Sutton, the other was from the west end of Park street to Front street, near the present site of the Soldiers' Monument. Near the site of the Bigelow monument, and fronting west, was the gun house for the keeping of the cannon belonging to the town, also the hearse house, and hook and ladder company's quarters. These buildings were afterwards moved to the east side of the burial ground, fronting Salem square.

The burial ground, situated at the east end of the Common, surrounded by a low stone wall, had an entrance on the west end ; and on the north side were the tombs of the Wheeler and Dix families. This old ground was given up for burial purposes many years ago, and those grave stones which were not removed were laid flat and covered with earth and sods. A member of this Society, with praiseworthy forethought, had copied the inscriptions from the old stones in the enclosure, and preserved them in printed form.\* These inscriptions have since been republished by this Society, with historical notes, and inscriptions from the burial ground on Mechanic street. A plan of the ground was also made by order of the city authorities, and deposited in the office of the City Clerk.

On the southeast corner of the Common there stood for many years, a one-story wooden school house, with a cupola and bell, which was used when I was a school boy, for the South Boys' Primary School, then under the charge of Miss Caroline Corbett, daughter of the late Otis Corbett. At one time it was used for the evening school for apprentices, which was afterwards kept in the lower town hall.

Our present efficient Chairman of the Commission on Public Grounds would have been horrified at the uses made of the Common forty or more years ago, for it was here that the county cattle shows were held. Four rows of pens for the exhibition of cattle, swine and sheep, were put up on the north side, near Front street, and extending from the Norwich railroad track nearly to where the Soldiers' Monument now is. The rest of the Common was given up to booths for the sale of refreshments of various kinds ; and auctioneers' wagons, from which they sold whips, dry goods, soap and cheap jewelry. Cheap jacks traveled about the Common and streets adjacent, selling toothache drops, razors, gilt rings, and numerous articles to tempt the rural visitor. Often there would be tents pitched on the Common for the exhibition of monstrosities of various kinds, such as a two-headed calf, a mammoth horse

\* Epitaphs from the Cemetery on Worcester Common, with Occasional Notes, References, and an Index. By W. S. Barton. Worcester, 1848. Pp. 36.



TOWN HALL, 1840.



or ox, fat girls, etc. Across Front street, west of where the track of the Norwich railroad used to be, was an open space extending to Mechanic street, which was filled with stands for the sale of sheet gingerbread, cake, pies and confectionery, sweet cider and root beer. Here would be heard the loud call of the hot oyster man, to "walk up, tumble up, any way to get up, and buy a bowl of hot oysters,"—very hot indeed, but with very few oysters.

At the east end of the Common, now "Salem Square" (then known as "Baptist Hill"), the trial of working oxen took place. Carts filled with stone were drawn and backed, up and down the hill, amid the plaudits of the crowd, and the efforts of the marshals to keep the lookers on outside the line.

Besides being used for the annual cattle show, the Common was the parade ground for the militia; here they were reviewed, and salutes were fired from the town guns by Isaac Bartlett, the old gunner, for want of an organized artillery company. It was quite the thing at that day for the military companies to march up and down Main street, firing salutes at different points in the street; and I do not remember that any but ladies and timid children objected. On Fast days it was the custom to have games of round ball on the Common, which attracted crowds of spectators, and to my mind were much more exciting than our modern base ball. Foot ball and cricket, too, were often played here. A local cricket club was organized twenty-five or thirty years ago, and used the Common for their practice games.

As long ago as 1839 and 40 the Common was often used for tent shows, mostly those having on exhibition wild animals, or mammoth horses and cattle. One of the first shows I remember upon the Common, was about 1839, when the first Giraffe or Cameleopard ever brought alive to America was exhibited, with the Ibex, "the dark-eyed Gazelle" and other tropical animals. In these early days, such a thing as a circus was not countenanced by the fathers of the town; and those who wished to indulge their taste for the equestrian arena, were obliged to go either to Millbury or Holden, the selectmen of those towns probably not being afraid of such an unusual exhibition harming their constituents. One of the first circuses that I can remember as licensed to exhibit here,

was that of Rockwell & Stone, who set up their tents on the grounds now occupied by Rogers's block and the Baptist church on Pleasant street ; and evidently with a desire to show the good people of Worcester that no harm could come of it, they invited all the clergymen of the town to attend the show, and distributed a pamphlet setting forth the wonders of the arena, and the strictly moral tone of the exhibition.

At the period of which I am speaking, it was customary for the smaller shows to have their headquarters at one of the taverns, and give exhibitions either in some room or in a tent in the yard outside. In 1840 the *Syr* announces that Mons. Behin, the Belgian Giant, "the tallest, strongest and best proportioned man in the world," will be at the United States Hotel, for one day and evening only, on his way to Boston.\* In 1838 the celebrated Siamese Twins were on exhibition at the Central Hotel ; and about the same time, a mastodon, one of the first discovered in the country, was exhibited at the same place.

In connection with the subject of shows and exhibitions, I will mention an unusual incident which occurred at Worcester in the summer of 1843, and of which the newspapers of the day seem to have made no mention. The reporter of that period is not to be compared with the one of to-day in furnishing to newspaper readers local items which, if not of special interest at the time, would prove of historical value years after. It is, therefore, rather disappointing to find so little in the newspapers to refresh one's memory, as to occurrences that at the time created great excitement in the town.

In July of 1843, the *Syr* contained an advertisement, with a cut of a buffalo at its head, announcing to the people of Worcester that there would be an exhibition in the rear of the Central Hotel, of a herd of fifteen buffaloes, "captured in the Rocky Mountains."

\* "Mons. Behin" was afterwards on exhibition at Concert Hall, Boston, in connection with Harrington's Dioramas; and on a play-bill, now before me, announcing his appearance there, is a rough wood cut entitled a "Sketch of Mons. Behin as he appeared at the Bowery Theater when struggling with twelve men in the Giant of Palestine."



The public were also informed that "no danger need be apprehended, as they are perfectly tame, docile, and harmless"; also that, "as the expense of capturing and driving them from the mountains, is *really enormous*, a similar herd will probably never again be seen in this portion of America." I am quite sure there has never been such an exhibition in Worcester since, nor is there likely to be in the future, as that most unwillingly given to our citizens during the week advertised for this show.

Briefly stated, the story current at the time was, that sometime during the night, or in the early morning of one of the days of exhibition, the ropes holding up the tent in which the buffaloes were shown, were cut by some evil disposed persons, who may have been thirsting for a genuine buffalo hunt, and the whole herd let loose in our streets. Of course everybody who was aware of the escape of the wild beasts became excited, and men and boys joined in the chase with the enraged owners, who were mounted on horse-back. The herd were soon separated, some going towards Holden, where they were afterwards captured; and some went up Main street, towards Leicester, one or two of them being taken in the pasture about opposite the present residence of Mr. T. H. Dodge. One I remember as being chased by a crowd of men and boys, from Front street across to Mechanic street, and down what is now Union street, till finally the poor animal, excited almost to madness, leaped over a stone wall, six or seven feet high, which formed part of the foundation of Howe & Goddard's (now Rice, Barton & Fales's) machine shop, then in process of erection, and here he was easily captured. It was two or three days before they were all secured; and the excitement of a veritable buffalo hunt in Worcester was one that the participants and lookers on would not soon forget; and, as the advertisement set forth, "will probably never again be seen in this part of America."

Trusting you will pardon this digression, we will now return to the description of the Common and its surroundings. Just north of the school house, with an entrance facing the Baptist church, was the town pound, an enclosure with a stone wall eight or nine feet in height, where the field drivers took stray cattle and swine found

running at large. After the hearse house and other buildings were removed from the center of the Common, two of them were placed on the east end of the burial ground facing the square, and were there used for similar purposes. When the brick school house was erected on the Common, a little southeast of the Soldiers' Monument, a room was provided, on the east end, for the hook and ladder company.

In my boyhood days Salem square was known as "Baptist Hill" from the church of that denomination being located there. The hill was cut down some years ago, but was formerly quite steep, and afforded the boys of the neighborhood an excellent coasting place, and with no fears that a city marshal or policeman would interfere with the sport. The first Baptist meeting house, dedicated in 1813, was burnt in 1836; and that fire is one of the earliest recollections of my youth; living as I did at that time, in close proximity to it, a very vivid impression was made on my mind. The *Syr.*, in its report of the fire, says: "Not a single article was saved. . . . The pulpit was furnished with a pair of very valuable lamps, and the congregation had recently supplied themselves with new copies of Winchell's Watts's Songs and Hymns." The cattle pens of the Agricultural Society, which were stored in the basement, were also destroyed.\*

Going back to Main street, and taking the north side of Front street under consideration, we should find under the "Old Com-pound" building, with an entrance on Front street, an eating house, kept in 1841-2 by Mr. Mentzer, who probably opened there after being burnt out on Mechanic street; he was succeeded by George Geer in 1842-3. The first building facing Front street was occupied in 1840 by A. Gleason & Co., the firm consisting of Austin Gleason and Stephen Taft, who, in April, 1839, formed a copartnership for carrying on the West India goods and grocery business. After the retirement of Mr. Gleason, in 1841, Mr. Taft carried on the business for several years, afterwards moving to the block at the corner of Front and Trumbull streets, taking his son into partnership, who still continues there.

\* Rev. Samuel B. Swain was pastor of the first Baptist church in 1840.

Other occupants of stores on Front street, between Main street and the Norwich railroad, from 1839 to 1843, were Angier (C. W.) & Johnson, and Charles Boardman, in the grocery business; Chapman (G. E.) & Rogers (L. M.) (up stairs in the same building with Boardman), and Hiram French, in the boot and shoe trade; Watson & Nutting, and S. V. Stone, bakers. A Mr. G. Spaulding also had a grocery store here about this time. In the store next to the railroad, Lucius Beach was in the wool business; and later, Aaron Billings in the stove and tinware business. This was the store owned and occupied for many years by Sumner Pratt, and lately removed to make way for the present handsome brick block built by him.

About 1840 Aaron Howe, who had been landlord of the old Eaton tavern on Front street, kept a fish market in the basement of one of the stores opposite the Town Hall. Henry W. Miller, as early as 1827, was in the chair and furniture business in one of the old buildings opposite the Town Hall, with a workshop in the rear of the stores. Smith Kendall (chair painter) representing him in the business. Samuel Harrington, town undertaker, and E. G. Partridge, manufacturer of furniture, were other occupants of stores between Main street and the railroad.\*

Crossing the railroad we come to the house occupied for about forty years by the late Osgood Bradley. This house was built by William Hovey, and occupied in 1829 by the late Rejoice Newton. Some years later it came into the possession of Francis T. Merrick, and was used as a boarding house by a Peter Richardson. The last occupant before Mr. Bradley moved there from Grafton street was Richard Kimball, who also kept a boarding house.

The next building beyond the Bradley house was that of the Union Church, completed in 1836, and dedicated July 6th of that year,† and at the time of which I am speaking was under the

\* Mr. Harrington was up stairs in the building next west of the Sumner Pratt store.

† At the dedication of the Union Church Rev. John Nelson, of Leicester, preached the sermon, and the dedicatory prayer was by Rev. George Allen. This building was lately taken down, and the present improved and more ornamental edifice erected in its place.

charge of Rev. Elam Smalley. Otis Corbett had lived in a house standing on this spot, which I think was moved back to Carlton street before the erection of the church building, and occupied by John Simmons, carpenter.

Crossing Short street, now called Carlton street, was an open lot, from which some years earlier, the Dr. Benjamin Chapin house had been removed to the east corner of Carlton and Mechanic streets. (This house, while on Front street, had been occupied by Dr. Chapin and the late Anthony Chase ; and after its removal to Mechanic street, Joseph Pratt, S. B. Church, the printer, and others lived there.) In the next, a double brick house, lived Austin Denny and Moses Spooner. Earlier Thomas Kinnicutt, Levi A. Dowley, Dr. William Workman and Rev. Elam Smalley were occupants of the block ; and later it came into the possession of S. R. Leland, who converted it into stores.

Among the occupants of the next house, at the west corner of Bigelow court, I remember Joseph T. Turner, a noted wag and story-teller of forty years ago. Smith Kendall, chair painter, also lived there ; and somewhat later than the period of which I am writing, a family of Geers. At the end of Bigelow court, where the headquarters of the Fire Department now are, was, as early as 1836, a little wooden building in which Miss Thankful Hersey kept an infant school for the boys and girls of the neighborhood, and here the writer was taught the rudiments, in other words his A B C.

At the east corner of the court and Front street was the one-story wooden building used as an office by Abijah Bigelow, counsellor at law. Then came his garden, with its flowers, fruit trees and vegetables, extending back to Mechanic street ; and on the corner of Church street was his dwelling house, afterwards used as our city hospital. The grounds of Mr. Bigelow, on Front street, are now covered by the fine blocks of Jonas G. Clark and David Whitcomb. On the north side of Front street, extending from about where Leland's block stands, to Church street, was a double row of trees ; among those of the inner row were pear and cherry trees, but, as can easily be imagined, the fruit seldom came to maturity, the temptation being too strong for the average boy of that day to allow it to remain long enough.

Just east of Salem square, at the corner of Trimbull street, and about where the Waverly House now is, was a tavern kept in 1843 by a Mrs. John Bradley. It was for many years known as the Eaton Tavern, having been owned and kept for a long time by Nathaniel Eaton. The building, which was originally the Palmer Goulding house, was bought about 1819 by Amos Smith, who turned the house into a tavern, and was its landlord.\* I first remember it as kept by Aaron Howe, who was there in 1839; he had the reputation of getting up good game suppers, and not many years ago was keeping an eating saloon in Springfield, Mass. The barn connected with the tavern was west of the house, on Salem square, having an entrance both on the east and west, so that a carriage or a load of hay could be driven directly through it. Just back of the barn, towards the Baptist church, and extending nearly to it, was a large yard with a stone wall around it, for the use of dealers in swine or cattle, who often used to come from quite a distance with large droves which they offered for sale.

If time would permit, other places of interest further down Front street might be mentioned; but I have already tried your patience, and will bring these recollections to a close. If we should continue our walk through Church street to Mechanic street, we should pass on the right Mr. F. W. Bancroft's barn, which in my younger days was the rendezvous for the "Boys' Company," then one of the institutions of the town. They used to appear in blue jackets and pants, carrying wooden spears painted green, the officers with old militia swords. Among the officers of the company I can recall only the names of Edward Bancroft (brother of Rev. Dr. Lucius Bancroft), Caleb Newcomb, Jr., George Batman and Samuel Jenkinson, Jr. The next house, which is still standing, was built, I think, by a Mr. Kimberly, and occupied in 1840 by Gardiner Paine. On the corner of Church and Mechanic streets, was, and is now, a brick house occupied for many years by our venerable fellow citizen, Deacon Daniel Gooddard †

\* Data on the authority of Joseph T. Amos Smith.

† Since the reading of this paper Deacon Daniel Gooddard has died, (Nov. 16, 1884,) at nearly ninety years of age.

Crossing Mechanic street, and going down what is now Union street, passing on our left at the corner, the block occupied a little earlier than the time of which I am writing, by Col. Calvin Foster (in the east end), we should have soon found ourselves under the bridge of the Boston and Worcester railroad, and then in the meadow beyond. This meadow was often covered with water, and at all times, except in the driest of weather, was wet and boggy. Ditches crossed it, running from the rear of Nahum Parker's stable on the west, to the Blackstone canal or Mill brook on the east. In these the boys used to catch frogs and turtles, and in the winter the whole meadow was often flooded, making a good place for skating.\*

I had intended to give a full list of the occupants of buildings on Mechanic street, but time will permit only a brief mention. On the north side of the street, starting from Main street, passing Whiting's carriage shop and the stable once occupied by E. M. Stockwell, we should first come to the shop occupied by Benjamin Goddard, carriage maker, and Tower & Raymond, carpenters; then to a small, one-story building about where the track of the Norwich railroad was, occupied by one Dalrymple.

Next were the houses of Maj. S. Graves, Thomas B. Eaton (town undertaker), Theo. B. Western (sign and ornamental painter), who lived in a small cottage house afterwards occupied by Charles Nudd and a Mrs. Geer. In the two-tenement wooden house, still standing, lived William Duncan, Amherst Eaton, and Levi Coes; and in the brick block next east, were Peter Kendall (mason), and Tilly Raymond (carpenter). The west end of the double wooden house, at the corner of Union and Mechanic streets, if I remember right, was occupied about the year 1840 by George E. Wyman, and a little later by Gill Bartlett (who kept a boarding house); and the east end by David Flagg, (some years earlier by Calvin Foster).

Crossing the street, and near the corner of Church street, was the double wooden house occupied by S. N. Whitney and Baxter

\*On the left, going down what is now Union street, and just before reaching the bridge of the Boston and Worcester railroad, was a "frog pond" covering about half an acre, which was a great source of enjoyment to the boys of the neighborhood, both summer and winter.

Barnes (father of Walter H. Barnes of the Boston and Albany rail road). Next, going towards Main street, after passing the rear of Abijah Bigelow's garden, were the houses occupied by George Edwards, Charles Stiles and C. C. Coleman (the last two living in the same house), and the block at the corner of Carlton street, before spoken of. On the west side of Carlton street was the brick block occupied by A. P. Lesure (tailor), and John C. Greenleaf (baker), the latter now living at Rutland, Mass. Then came Samuel Bowden's blacksmith shop, next, just west of the Norwich and Worcester railroad location, a stable, occupied about this period by George Jones and Luther Gunn, and adjoining the United States Hotel land was a wooden house, occupied by Mr. Bemis (father of Mr. Elias L. Bemis of the *Argo*), and later by Augustus Waters, (harness maker).

Trusting that these random recollections may prove of some little use to the future historian of our city (who, I have no doubt, will be a member of The Worcester Society of Antiquity), and that they have not been without interest to those who have so kindly listened to them, I will close, thanking you for your patient attention.

NOTE.—From time to time there have appeared in the daily papers, or in reminiscences read before some of our local societies, notices of Worcester and its citizens, some of which have been consulted in preparing these recollections. Among these the following are mentioned as of similar character to this publication, and which will be of interest to those who desire to learn more of Worcester and its business men in the past.

"*WARTON IN WORCESTER*," a series of twenty articles printed in the *Worcester Patriot* in 1855, and reprinted in that paper in 1857 and 1874. They were prepared largely by the late Clarendon Wheelock, under the supervision of the late J. S. C. Knowlton.

"*REMINISCENCES OF THE ORIGINAL ASSOCIATES AND PAID MEMBERS OF THE WORCESTER F.R.S. SOCIETY*." Read to the Society at various times by Levi L. Allen, Isaac Dorr and Benjamin F. Thorne. Printed in 1870 and 1874.

"*BUSINESS MEN OF WORCESTER FIFTY YEARS AGO*." Nine lithos published in the *Daily Argus* in 1870 by Charles A. Ward.

NOTE.—*HISTORICAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF THE TOWN OF WORCESTER*. By Nathaniel Parker.

THE LUMBER BUSINESS OF WORCESTER. Read before The Worcester Society of Antiquity in 1878 by Ellery B. Crane.

THE TRADE OF WORCESTER DURING THE PRESENT CENTURY. Read before The Worcester Society of Antiquity in 1880 by Henry H. Chamberlin.

GLEANINGS FROM THE SOURCES OF HISTORY OF THE SECOND PARISH OF WORCESTER. By Samuel S. Green.

THE WORCESTER BOOK : A DIARY OF NOTEWORTHY EVENTS IN WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS, from 1657 to 1883. By Franklin P. Rice.







# PARTIAL LIST OF OCCUPANTS OF BUILDINGS ON MAIN, FRONT AND MECHANIC STREETS, SHOWN ON THE DIAGRAM

## MAIN STREET.

|          |                               |
|----------|-------------------------------|
| No. 200. | Merrick & Dowley,....1836.    |
|          | Newcomb & Brown,....1837.     |
|          | C. Newcomb & Co.,....1838.    |
|          | Newcomb & Bowen,....1838.     |
|          | C. Foster & Co., .....1840.   |
| 208.     | Stephen Bartlett (up stairs). |
|          | Haywood, Paine & Paine.       |
|          | Daniel Haywood,.....1839.     |
| 210.     | E. F. Dixie.                  |
|          | George Bowen.                 |
| 210.     | Nathaniel Paine.              |
| 212.     | N. Paine's Office.            |
| 214.     | James Shepard & Son.          |
| 216.     | L. A. Dowley.                 |
| 218.     | {                             |
| 220.     | W. A. Draper & Co.            |
| 222.     | Isaac Davis.                  |
| 224.     | Chandler House,.....1750.     |
|          | Ira M. Barton,.....1831.      |
| 226.     | Edw. Denny.                   |
|          | F. W. Hammond.                |
| 228.     | Joseph Sargent.               |
|          | Anthony Chase.                |
| 230.     | Geo. T. Rice.                 |

|          |                            |
|----------|----------------------------|
| No. 211. | Stage Office.              |
| 213.     | United States Hotel.       |
|          | C. C. Baldwin, .....1827.  |
|          | John Birney, .....1837.    |
| 215.     | W. D. Lewis,.....1838.     |
| 217.     | Lakin & Stone,.....1839.   |
|          | J. P. Southgate,.....1842. |
|          | S. Billings,.....1843.     |
|          | C. Newcomb,.....1837.      |
|          | John Weiss,.....1838.      |
| 219.     | Jere. Bond,.....1839.      |
| 221.     | John Coe,.....1840.        |
| 223.     | C. B. Robbins,.....1841.   |
|          | S. P. Champney,.....1844.  |

## FRONT STREET.

|        |                             |
|--------|-----------------------------|
| No. 1. | A. Gleason & Co.,.....1839. |
|        | S. Taft,.....1840.          |
| 2.     | Charles Boardman,....1840.  |
|        | Smith Kendall.              |
| 3.     | Chapin & Rogers.            |
| 4.     | E. G. Partridge.            |
|        | S. V. Stone.                |
| 5.     | { Aaron Billings.           |
| 6.     | Sumner Pratt.               |
|        | Lucius Beach.               |
| 7.     | Richard Kimball.            |
|        | Osgood Bradley.             |
| 8.     | Union Church.               |

|        |                           |
|--------|---------------------------|
| No. 8. | A. Denny.                 |
|        | Moses Spooner.            |
| 9.     | S. R. Leland.             |
|        | Thos. Kinnicutt.          |
|        | L. A. Dowley.             |
|        | Wm. Workman.              |
|        | Elam Smalley.             |
| 10.    | — Denny.                  |
|        | J. T. Turner.             |
|        | Geo. Geer.                |
|        | A. Bigelow's Office.      |
| 11.    | Abijah Bigelow.           |
| 12.    | T. W. Bancroft.           |
| 13.    | Samuel Hathaway.          |
| 14.    | A. Howe's Tavern.         |
| 15.    | Hubbard.                  |
| 16.    | Ephm. Morse.              |
| 17.    | E. G. Partridge, (house). |

## MECHANIC STREET.

|        |                            |
|--------|----------------------------|
| No. 2. | Benj. Goddard.             |
|        | Tower & Raymond.           |
| 4.     | Windsor Dalrymple, ..1835. |
| 6.     | S. Graves.                 |
| 8.     | T. B. Eaton.               |
| 10.    | Thos. B. Western.          |
|        | Mrs. Geer.                 |
| 12.    | Charles Nudd.              |
|        | W. Duncan.                 |
| 14.    | Arthurst Eaton.            |
| 16.    | Levi Coes.                 |
| 18.    | Peter Kendall.             |
| 20.    | T. Raymond.                |
|        | C. Foster.                 |
| 22.    | D. Flagg.                  |
|        | G. F. Wyman.               |
|        | Thos. Brown.               |
|        | G. Bartlett.               |

|        |                          |
|--------|--------------------------|
| No. 1. | Wm. C. Whiting.          |
| 3.     | { N. T. Bemis, ....1839. |
|        | A. Waters, .....1843.    |
|        | Stable.                  |
| 5.     | Stable.                  |
| 7.     | Stable { Luther Gunn     |
|        | Geo. Jones               |
|        | S. Boyden's Shop.        |
| 9.     | J. C. Goodleaf.          |
| 11.    | A. P. Lesure.            |
| 13.    | Jos. Pratt.              |
| 15.    | Mrs. Mearns.             |
| 17.    | S. D. Church.            |
| 19.    | C. Stone.                |
|        | C. C. Coleman.           |
| 21.    | Geo. Edwards.            |
| 23.    | Rexter Barnes.           |
| 25.    | S. N. Whitney.           |
| 27.    | Elder L. Goddard.        |
| 29.    | Oliver East.             |





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